

REMARKS

Claim 13 has been amended. As such, claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-27 are currently pending in the case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 7-12, and 19-27.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,947,315 to Iwata (hereinafter referred to as "Iwata").

Iwata is not available as prior art against claims 13-18. To expedite prosecution, a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 131 is filed with this response. The declaration establishes an invention date prior to November 7, 2003 for at least the subject matter of claim 13. Because Iwata was filed on November 7, 2003, it is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) against claim 13, nor any dependent claims thereto including claims 14-18. Accordingly, removal of the 102(e) rejection of claims 13-18 is respectfully requested.

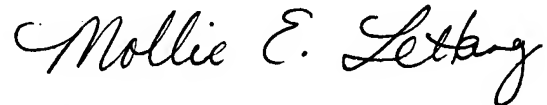
It is noted that claim 13 has been amended to clarify the first storage circuit includes one or more magnetic elements. It is believed that such a limitation was recited in the claim's previous recitation and, thus, no new subject matter has been added to the claim. Support for the amendment to claim 13 may be found, for example, on page 33, lines 5-14 of the specification, particularly with respect to the descriptions of magnetic control data latch 170 and configuration latch 182 including one or more magnetic elements.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action mailed May 13, 2005. In view of the remarks traversing the rejections, Applicants assert that pending claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-27 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Daffer McDaniel LLP Deposit Account No. 50-3268/5298-17100.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 12, 2006
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